

Listing of Claims:

- 1 1. (Currently amended) A retroreflective article comprising:
2 a) a microporous substrate containing a plurality of pores which are less than
3 0.5 μm in diameter; and
4 b) a layer of reflective material, selected from the group consisting of metal
5 coatings and dielectric coatings, wherein said layer of reflective material is in direct
6 contact with ~~located on~~ the surface of the substrate such that said layer at least
7 partially obscures a plurality of the pores of the substrate.
- 1 2. (Previously Amended) A retroreflective article, as set forth in claim 1, additionally
2 comprising a protective coating material layer, overlying said layer of reflective
3 material.
- 1 3. (Original) A retroreflective article, as set forth in claim 2, wherein said protective
2 coating material is selected from the group consisting of polyurethanes,
3 polymethylmethacrylate and copolymers thereof, styrene-acrylonitriles, polystyrene,
4 polycarbonate, organosiloxanes, amorphous polyolefins, evaporative dielectric coatings
5 and other transparent materials.
- 1 4. (Previously Amended) A retroreflective article as set forth in claim 1, wherein said
2 substrate contains a plurality of pores which have diameters which are less than 450 nm.
- 1 ~~5.~~⁶ (Original) A retroreflective article, as set forth in claim 1, wherein said substrate is
2 comprised of a nanoporous polymeric film.
- 1 ~~6.~~⁵ (Previously Amended) A retroreflective article, as set forth in claim 4, wherein said
2 substrate is a fabric.

- 1 7. (Previously Amended) A retroreflective article, as set forth in claim ~~5~~, wherein said
2 substrate is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polytetrafluoroethylene,
3 polypropylene, polyethylene terephthalate, polymethylmethacrylate and polyacetate.
- 1 8. (Previously Amended) A retroreflective article, as set forth in claim 1, wherein said
2 reflective material layer is a metal coating.
- 1 9. (Previously Amended) A retroreflective article, as set forth in claim 8, wherein said
2 reflective material is selected from the group consisting of aluminum, chromium, nickel,
3 silver and gold.
- 1 10. (Original) A retroreflective article, as set forth in claim 9, wherein said reflective
2 material is aluminum.
- 1 11. (Previously Amended) A retroreflective article, as set forth in claim 10, wherein said
2 reflective material layer has a thickness of between about 0.001 to about 0.0001 inches.
- 1 12. (Original) A retroreflective article, as set forth in claim 1, wherein an optical
2 performance enhancing characteristic has been introduced into said article.
- 1 13. (Original) A retroreflective article, as set forth in claim 12, wherein said optical
2 performance enhancing characteristic is a repeating corner cube design.
- 1 14. (Previously Amended) A retroreflective article, as set forth in claim 1, additionally
2 comprising an adhesive layer located on a surface of said substrate opposite to the
3 surface on which said reflective material layer is deposited.

- 1 15. (Original) A retroreflective article, as set forth in claim 1, affixed to a carrier substrate
2 member via said adhesive layer.
- 1 16. (Withdrawn) A method for the production of a reflective article comprising the steps of:
2 a) providing a substrate which contains pores which have a diameter of less than
3 0.5 μm ; and
4 b) applying a layer of reflective material to the substrate in such a way that said
5 layer at least partially obscures a plurality of the pores of the substrate.
- 1 17. (Withdrawn) The method, as set forth in claim 16, further comprising the step of
2 applying a protective layer to said reflective article, overlying said layer of metal.
- 1 18. (Withdrawn) The method, as set forth in claim 17, wherein said protective coating
2 material is selected from the group consisting of polyurethanes, polymethylmethacrylate
3 and copolymers thereof, styrene-acrylonitriles, polystyrene, polycarbonate,
4 organosiloxanes, amorphous polyolefins, evaporative dielectric coatings and other
5 transparent materials.
- 1 19. (Withdrawn) The method, as set forth in claim 16, wherein said reflective material is
2 selected from the group consisting of metals and dielectrics.
- 1 20. (Withdrawn) The method, as set forth in claim 19, wherein said metal layer is selected
2 from the group consisting of aluminum, chromium, nickel, silver and gold.
- 1 21. (Withdrawn) The method, as set forth in claim 20, wherein said metal is aluminum and
2 is applied in a layer that is between about 0.001 to about 0.0001 inches (about 0.0254
3 to about 0.00254 mm) thick.

- 1 22. (Withdrawn) The method, as set forth in claim 16, further comprising the step of
2 processing said article to introduce optical performance enhancing characteristics.
- 1 23. (Withdrawn) The method, as set forth in claim 22, wherein said step of processing to
2 introduce optical performance enhancing characteristics comprises embossing said
3 article using calendar rolls or flat plates.
- 1 24. (Withdrawn) The method, as set forth in claim 23, wherein said step of processing
2 includes heating said calendar rolls.
- 1 25. (Withdrawn) The method, as set forth in claim 23, wherein said step of processing to
2 introduce optical performance enhancing characteristics includes introducing a repeating
3 corner cube design into said reflective layer.